

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 IO-13 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

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L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 OMB-01

SAM-01 /077 W

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1205

INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LILONGWE

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

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KINSHASA AND MONROVIA PASS SECDEL

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR' PDEV. RH. UK. US, OVIP (KISSINGER. HENRY A)

SUBJECT: BRITISH REACTION TO SECRETARY'S LUSAKA SPEECH

SUMMARY. IN HIS FIRST HOUSE OF COMMONS APPEARANCE AS FOREIGN SECRETARY. ANTHONY CROSLAND STRONGLY ENDORSED SECRETARY'S LUSAKA STATEMENT ON U.S. POLICY REGARDING RHODESIA. RESPONDING TO BARBED QUESTIONS FROM RIGHT-WING TORY MP'S. CROSLAND CHARACTERIZED SECRETARY'S SPEECH AS "A MAJOR EVENT". AND SAID THAT ANY LINE OTHER UNCLASSIFIED

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THAN THAT TAKEN BY UK AND U.S. "WOULD HAVE UNDERMINED

EVERY SINGLE MODERATE BLACK LEADER" IN AFRICA. WITH EXCEPTION OF RIGHT-WING "DAILY TELEGRAPH" AND "DAILY MAIL", LONDON DAILIES HAVE ALSO HAILED SECRETARY'S STATEMENT AS HIGHLY SIGNIFICANT. END SUMMARY.

1. RESPONDING TO QUESTIONS IN HOUSE OF COMMONS ON APRIL 28, IN HIS FIRST PARLIAMENTARY APPEARANCE AS FOREIGN MINISTER. ANTHONY CROSLAND SAID SECRETARY KISSINGER'S LUSAKA STATEMENT ON RHODESIA WAS "A MAJOR CONTRIBUTION TO AFRICAN POLICY." CROSLAND NOTED THAT VIEWS EXPRESSED BY HIMSELF AND FORMER FOREIGN SECRETARY (AND NOW PM) JAMES CALLAGHAN WERE NOW THE VIEWS OF THE UK, THE FOUR AFRICAN PRESIDENTS, THE EEC, AND THE /U.S.

2. WHEN ONE CONSERVATIVE MP ACCUSED SECRETARIES CROSLAND AND KISSINGER OF "UNDERMINING EVERY MODERATE PERSON IN RHODESIA". CROSLAND REPLIED, "...IN TERMS OF NATIONAL INTEREST AND GLOBAL BALANCE OF POWER, I SUGGEST THAT IF THE UNITED KINGDOM GOVERNMENT AND DR. KISSINGER HAD NOT TAKEN THE LINE WE HAVE TAKEN WE WOULD HAVE UNDERMINED EVERY SINGLE MODERATE BLACK LEADER IN THE ENTIRE CONTINENT OF SOUTHERN AFRICA."

3. RESPONDING TO ANOTHER TORY BACK-BENCHER. CROSLAND SAID. "I THINK DR. KISSINGER'S SPEECH WAS A MAJOR EVENT FOR GOOD IN AFRICA AND HAD HE NOT MADE THAT SPEECH. OR MADE A SPEECH OF CONTRARY CHARACTER. THE POSSIBLE EFFECTS ON THE WORLD BALANCE OF POWER WOULD HAVE BEEN DISASTROUS."

4. PRESS REACTION, WHICH HAS BEEN REPORTED IN DETAIL THROUGH USIA CHANNELS, HAS BEEN HIGHLY FAVORABLE. "TIMES" LUSAKA CORRESPONDENT DESCRIBED LUSAKA SPEECH AS "PROBABLY THE MOST IMPORTANT STATEMENT OF POLICY ON AFRICA EVER MADE BY AN AMERICAN". AND "TIMES" NOTED EDITORIALY "SUBJECT TO CONGRESS, DR. KISSINGER HAS COMMITTED THE UNITED STATES TO BLACK AFRICA IN ITS STRUGGLE WITH WHITE AFRICA...THE BLACK MILITANTS WILL NO DOUBT RESERVE THEIR GRATITUDE FOR CUBA AND RUSSIA AS THOSE REALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE 'NEW ERA' IN AMERICAN UNCLASSIFIED

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RELATIONS IN AFRICA. BUT THOUGHTFUL AFRICAN LEADERS SHOULD HAVE EVERY REASON FOR PRIVATE SATISFACTION."

5. "GUARDIAN" AND "DAILY EXPRESS" ALSO NOTED ALIGNMENT OF UNITED STATES POLICY WITH BLACK AFRICAN ASPIRATIONS AND POINTED OUT THAT LUSAKA STATEMENT REPRESENTED A FURTHER MAJOR STEP IN THE ISOLATION OF IAN SMITH'S MINORITY GOVERNMENT.

6. SOMEWHAT MORE CAUTIOUSLY' "FINANCIAL TIMES"
OBSERVED, "IT LOOKS PROBABLE THAT DR. KISSINGER'S
SPEECH HAS COME TOO LATE TO HAVE ANY GREAT INFLUENCE ON
EVENTS IN RHODESIA AT THIS PARTICULAR STAGE. THE TIME
TO LEND AMERICAN WEIGHT TO A PEACEFUL SOLUTION WOULD
HAVE BEEN 18 MONTHS AGO...BUT EVEN IF DR. KISSINGER HAS
BEEN UNABLE TO GO AS FAR AS BLACK AFRICA WOULD LIKE, HE
HAS GONE SOME WAY TO RESTORE THE CONFIDENCE OF AFRICAN
LEADERS IN AMERICAN GOOD INTENTIONS."

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7. AFTER COMMENTING ON THE POLITICAL ASPECTS OF THE LUSAKA STATEMENT - THE PARTS OF THE SPEECH WHICH MOST READILY LENT THEMSELVES TO HEADLINES - ALL THE NEWSPAPERS CITED ABOVE NOTED THAT EQUAL IF NOT GREATER SIGNIFICANCE LAY IN THE ECONOMIC POINTS RAISED. PARTICULARLY THE OFFER OF FINANCIAL AID TO MOZAMBIQUE AND THE PROMISE OF ANOTHER ATTEMPT TO REPEAL THE BYRD AMENDMENT. ON THE LATTER QUESTION. REPORTERS AND EDITORIALISTS OBSERVED, AS THE "FINANCIAL TIMES" PUT IT. "...ALTHOUGH THERE IS THEORETICALLY NO REASON WHY THE ISSUE SHOULD NOT BE RESOLVED BY CONGRESS BEFORE ITS SUMMER RECESS IN JUNE,

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IMPLEMENTATION OF HIS PROMISE MAY PROVE DIFFICULT IN AN ELECTION YEAR."

8. SOUR NOTES WERE SOUNDED BY THE RIGHT-WING "DAILY TELEGRAPH" AND TABLOID "DAILY MAIL." "TELEGRAPH" EDITORIALIZED. "DR. KISSINGER IS A JOHNNY-COME-LATELY TO AFRICA. FOR SEVERAL YEARS. THE UNITED STATES HAS HAD NO DISCERNIBLE AFRICAN POLICIES...AMERICA REALLY LOST INTEREST IN AFRICA ONCE IT WAS SATISFIED THAT BRITISH INTERESTS THERE HAD BEEN FINALLY UNDERMINED...FOR INSENSITIVITY AND LACK OF UNDERSTANDING, DR. KISSINGER'S SPEECH YESTERDAY IN LUSAKA TAKES SOME BEATING...(BY USING THE WORD 'HEGEMONIAL'). DR. KISSINGER HAS EVEN STARTED TALKING CHINESE..." "DAILY MAIL" EDITORIAL WAS IN SIMILAR VEIN: "DR. KISSINGER'S SAFARI INTO THE UNKNOWN IS A HURRIED AND SOMEWHAT GRACELESS ATTEMPT TO REPAIR AMERICA'S POSITION IN AFRICA...WHO CARES' WHO REALLY CARES, ABOUT THE LIVES AND HUMAN DIGNITY OF THE PEOPLE, BLACK AND WHITE. WHO LIVE IN RHODESIA? IF DR. KISSINGER DOES, THEN WE MUST PRAY THAT, BEHIND THE ORATORICAL POSTURINGS OF HIS LUSAKA SPEECH, HE IS DOING HIS DAMNDEST TO CONDUCT SOME SECRET DIPLOMACY WITH THE KREMLIN."

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